

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-10 (Cancelled).

11. (New) A composite fabric material for use in making an article of clothing comprising a knitted or woven composite fabric material having a top, surface layer when used to make the article of clothing, which top, surface layer has a reduced color change when contacted with water, said composite fabric material being a multi-layered structure of two layers or more, wherein one of the layers is the top, surface layer and is formed with a yarn made from a synthetic fiber that contains from 1% by weight or more to 6% by weight or less of a white pigment and/or a core-sheath composite synthetic fiber comprising a core portion that contains from 3% by weight or more to 15% by weight or less of a white pigment, and a sheath portion containing 2% by weight or less of a white pigment, and the other of the two layers is at least one inner layer, other than the top, surface layer, and is formed with a yarn made from a water-absorbent and water-diffusing fiber.

12. (New) The composite fabric material of claim 11, wherein the water-absorbent and water-diffusing fiber is a synthetic fiber containing 1% by weight or more of a white pigment.

13. (New) The composite fabric material of claim 11, wherein an elastic fiber is mixed in at least one inner layer of the multi-layered structure.

14. (New) The composite fabric material of claim 11, wherein the water-absorbent and water-diffusing fiber satisfies the following numerical values:

$$X \geq 1.6 \text{ and } Y \geq 3$$

wherein  $X = a \times b/100$ , wherein  $a$  = an apparent density = METSUKE  $(\text{g}/100 \cdot \text{cm}^2)/\text{thickness (mm)}$  and  $b$  is a water-retention ration (%), and  $Y = c/a$ , wherein  $c$  is a diffusion area  $(\text{cm}^2)$ .

15. (New) The composite fabric material of claim 11, wherein the water-absorbent and water-diffusing fiber is composed of a fiber component of a W-shaped cross-sectional polyester filament.

16. (New) The composite fabric material of claim 11, wherein the composite fabric material is in the form of an article of clothing.